

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Currently Amended) ~~Process~~ A process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets based on chitosan or a basic chitosan derivative according to a dripping method, ~~characterized in that~~ which comprises:

a) preparing an aqueous solution or dispersion, ~~is prepared~~ wherein

- chitosan or the basic chitosan derivative,
- one or more active substances,
- an acid, having a boiling point of maximally 140°C, and
- possibly further auxiliary substances

are present predominantly in solution,

b) dripping the aqueous solution or dispersion ~~is dripped~~ into a cooling liquid having a temperature of maximally -5°C and is thereby solidified in the form of droplets;

c) isolating the solidified droplets or pellets; ~~are isolated~~ and

d) ~~dried,~~ drying, and the acid is removed from the pellets.

2. (Currently Amended) ~~Process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets~~ The process according to Claim 1,

~~characterized in that~~ wherein the drying of the isolated pellets is carried out by means of a freeze-drying process.

3. (Currently Amended) ~~Process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance containing pellets~~ The process according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the cooling liquid has a temperature of less than -15°C.

4. (Currently Amended) ~~Process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance containing pellets~~ The process according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the cooling liquid is a liquefied gas or a liquefied gas mixture.

5. (Currently Amended) ~~Process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance containing pellets~~ The process according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the cooling liquid is liquid air or liquid nitrogen.

6. (Currently Amended) ~~Process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance containing pellets~~ The process according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the droplet size is 0.3 to 5 mm in diameter.

7. (Currently Amended) ~~Process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance containing pellets~~ The process according to Claim 1, characterized in that wherein the chitosan or chitosan derivative employed has a molar mass of more than 40,000.

8. (Currently Amended) ~~Process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance containing pellets~~ The process according to Claim 1, characterized in that wherein the chitosan or chitosan derivative used has a molar mass of more than 75,000.

9. (Currently Amended) ~~Process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance containing pellets~~ The process according to Claim 1, characterized in that wherein the chitosan or chitosan derivative used has an acetylation degree of 10 to 50%.

10. (Currently Amended) ~~Process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance containing pellets~~ The process according to Claim 1, characterized in that wherein the chitosan or chitosan derivative employed has an acetylation degree of 20 to 45%.

11. (Currently Amended) ~~Process for the manufacture of porous, rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets~~ The process according to Claim 1, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the basic chitosan derivative is an acylated chitosan.

12. (Currently Amended) Porous active substance-containing pellets which disintegrate in physiological liquids within several minutes and are based on chitosan or a basic chitosan derivative, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein the pellets are manufactured by means of a process according to claim 1.

13. (Currently Amended) ~~Porous,~~ The porous rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein they have a zeta potential of +0.5 to +50 mV.

14. (Currently Amended) ~~Porous,~~ The porous rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein they have an average particle size of 0.3 to 5 mm in diameter.

15. (Currently Amended) ~~Porous,~~ The porous rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein they have an average particle size of 0.8 to 3 mm in diameter.

16. (Currently Amended) ~~Porous,~~ The porous rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein for purposes of application they are present in a hard capsule.

17. (Currently Amended) ~~Porous,~~ The porous rapidly disintegrating, active substance-containing pellets according to claim 12, ~~characterized in that~~ wherein prior to intake they are placed in a liquid in which they disintegrate.

18. (Cancelled)

¹⁸~~19~~. (New) A medicament which comprises the pellets according to claim 12.

¹⁹~~20~~. (New) A diagnostic agent that comprises the pellets according to claim 12.